



**STATE OF TENNESSEE
TENNESSEE COMMISSION ON CHILDREN AND YOUTH**

Andrew Johnson Tower, Ninth Floor
710 James Robertson Parkway
Nashville, Tennessee 37243-0800
(615) 741-2633 (FAX) 741-5956
1-800-264-0904

JUVENILE JUSTICE & MINORITY ISSUES COMMITTEE

TCCY Conference Room
Nashville, Tennessee
Thursday, July 12, 2007
2:15 p.m. – 3:15 p.m.

MINUTES

Committee Members Present

Beverly Cosley, Chairperson
Sidney Bynum
Dennis Clark
Jim Ford
Chey Korvandi-Geledar
Dana Lesley
Carleton Lewis
Christy Little
Jerry Maness
Dwight Stokes
Joetta Yarbro

Committee Members Absent

Michelle Crowley

Commission Members Present

Cindy Durham

Staff Present

Linda O'Neal, Executive Director
Debrah Stafford, JJ Director
Ron King
Ann Lowe
Philip T. McKenzie
John Nixon
Vicki Taylor
Zanira Whitfield

I. Approval of May 3, 2007 Committee Minutes

IT WAS MOVED (LITTLE) AND SECONDED (LEWIS) TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE JUVENILE JUSTICE AND MINORITY ISSUES COMMITTEE ON APRIL 10, 2007. UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED.

II. Update on Deinstitutionalization of Status Offenders (DSO) – Phil McKenzie

The success in the reduction of DSO violations is due primarily to open discussion with Juvenile Court staff and helping them understand the guidelines set by OJJDP. It was reported:

- Some counties use the valid court order. This is where everyone has a problem.

- A meeting is scheduled with a judge and his staff in Putnam County for training in August on some of the new procedures.
- At this time, there are 98 DSO violations for the state which is still good. Over half of all the detention and temporary holding facilities reports have been received.

Judge Stokes noted in the handout for DSO violations most were for status offenders. If there is a violation of a valid court order, the child can be incarcerated for a longer period of time than the one day normally.

Lewis inquired whether the same information could be obtained on DMC that is obtained on DSO. He asked if a breakdown on numbers could be obtained that shows confinement. It would be a different kind of number as it would not take into account contacts. If a county is way out of proportion, there would be concern.

McKenzie reported the numbers received each month from the detention centers and the temporary holding facilities are added on the sheet for both Black male and female and White male and female. Once June reports are submitted, numbers are totaled for each detention facility (not by county) with a breakdown of the status offenders and delinquent by male, female, and race. McKenzie stated the data can be compiled to include the DMC information Lewis is requesting.

III. Update on DSO Letter to the Governor – Linda O’Neal

A copy of the letter sent to the Governor’s Office as requested at the last meeting was included in handouts. The letter was to assure awareness of TCCY efforts for compliance with federal requirements for deinstitutionalization of status offenders. O’Neal commended King on the good job in facilitating the DMC meeting at the conference in Washington and Stafford and staff for putting together a packet for presentation to members of the delegation.

IV. Update on DMC Task Force – Ron King

The Statewide DMC Task Force Meeting of April 10, 2007 focused on the celebration of Minority Health Month. Guest speakers presented topics with an emphasis on the general health of youth in Tennessee; perspectives on mental health in minority youth; and health issues around juvenile justice. Speakers included:

- Dr. Theodora Pinnock, M.D, Director of Maternal and Child Health, Department of Health
- Dr. Frieda Outlaw, Special Populations, Department of Mental Health and Developmental Disabilities
- Servella Terry, Director, Community Partnerships and Support Services, Department of Children’s Services
- Patricia Slade, Health Services Coordinator, Department of Children’s Services

Local task force reports were brief due to the presentations. John Hall reported on the conference sponsored by Memphis/Shelby County Task Force on March 29, 2007. Guest speakers included:

- Bart Lubow, Annie E. Casey Foundation;
- Theresa Lurry, Consultant with Miller Group of Baltimore;
- Clint Lacey, Burns Institute.

The conference was well attended by key stakeholders from the community. Hall, Lubow, Stafford, O'Neal, and Commission member, Jerry Maness met with Judge Curtis Person and staff at Juvenile Court to talk about DMC issues in Memphis. The next Statewide Task Force meeting is Tuesday, July 17, 2007. New Visions state juvenile facility for girls will be toured in the morning with the business meeting afterwards. This will be the first time to visit a facility.

Cosley asked about significant directions taken on DMC. DMC Task Force members are working to:

- educate and make presentations to key community leaders;
- participate in the judges' conferences;
- send task force members to various conferences to be educated on important issues.

Cosley stated there are people beginning to question about the DMC activity and the impact that DMC is really having. Questions are asked about getting funds for programs without having results and about people getting money when they are not complying with the requirements or showing the results. She noted, however, DMC advocates do not have the control over the judicial systems and law enforcement:

Cosley stated the DMC Task Forces can only obtain the data that is available and use it as effectively as possible in support of DMC. Work is really cut out for TCCY staff and DMC advocates to show the impact of DMC and the how the money is being used. This is based on the comments at the Hearing of the Government Operations Sub-Committee for the Sunset Review earlier in the day.

Ford stated the local DMC task forces are made up of independent volunteers from various places. He said a lot of accountability is documentation as with the grants funding and suggested the DMC task forces: 1) document more actions that reveal the way things were done and reported, and 2) be aware comments can be cited without repercussions from the independent volunteers of the DMC Task Forces that are quoted in the minutes.

Issues and concerns brought forth from the Sub-Committee during the Sunset Review and included in the Audit Report from Office of Comptroller were discussed. O'Neal noted TCCY will continue to provide funding so sufficient data is obtained through the Administrative Office of Courts (AOC) information systems. It is important for the Tennessee Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges (TCJFCJ) to be supportive in meeting the requirements of continued eligibility for the federal funds.

Maness expressed concern that the continued flow of data did not seem to be stated in the subcommittee meeting. He said although there are glitches with the flow of data from the system, as had occurred with Davidson County, the majority of the state juvenile courts reported data.

Stafford stated one of the things that did not come out is TCCY did look at the Tennessee Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges regarding the upgrade to the JIF system. Funds were reduced each year from \$80,000 to \$15,000. When TCJFCJ was not meeting the criteria suggested in year 2004, TCCY stopped the funds.

Grant Review Committee has gone through a process over the years in looking at productivity and outcomes. Stafford noted we can document the amount of money given to TCJFCJ; the improvements on the monitoring system and forms; and the improvements on the RFP to get outcome and data output. It was noted the auditors had not included all the information.

Judge Stokes had ideas where consistency could be addressed for all the DMC task forces. He has ideas regarding guidelines to put into place so each task force would be reporting similar information. A summary would be provided every six months or at the end of the year to show the task forces are gathering information according to the objectives for their area.

O'Neal stated the lessons learned during the morning committee meeting will lead to implementing strategies to better share what has been done and the impact of it. Continued funding for the DMC task forces, whether there are outcomes or not, is necessary and the right thing to do.

| V. Update on CJJ Conference in Washington, D.C. – Ron King, Debrah Stafford

King facilitated the DMC meeting. He attended several workshops regarding brain development that would be relevant for juvenile justice professionals in decision making. Others attending the conference were Durham, O'Neal, Stafford and Crowley. Stafford reported attendees had the opportunity to visit with the Congressional delegation and present information about juvenile justice and other specific children's issues.

VI. Update on Federal Funding – Debrah Stafford

A letter from the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention found TCCY in compliance with the DMC requirement. Tennessee is one of the states doing a better job on DMC, but improvements can still be made.

The handout on Federal Juvenile Justice Appropriations for FY 2008 is the latest information regarding the federal funds for:

- Title II State Formula Funds,
- Title V Funds,

- Juvenile Accountability Block Grant Funds (JABG).

Stafford suggested people contact their Congressman to let him/her know how important the juvenile justice funds are for Tennessee and the progress seen in reductions in delinquency over the years. There is a possibility there will be an increase in funding.

Another main issue of concern is the reauthorization of the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act. It has been reauthorized several times since first created in 1974 and comes up for reauthorization every four years. For a few years it was not authorized at all, but appropriations continued, and then it was reauthorized in 2002. Some improvements are preferred for which representatives from CJJ have testified. There was an article in the *New York Times* about reauthorization.

Cosley asked what impact the President's 2008 Budget Proposal about creating a new, discretionary, competitive grant program for states and local jurisdictions (*Child Safety and Juvenile Justice Program*) would have. Stafford noted in the past, appropriations with the combining of programs resulted in a cut in funding.

The DMC Pilot Program in Memphis was approved by the GRC for \$100,000 and is to be piloted in seven schools. Trained officers, in addition to the School Resource Officers, would deal with minor offenses within the school and try to prevent those children from being brought to juvenile court or given juvenile summons. The project will be implemented by the Memphis City School System. The program is based on a best practice model implemented in Chicago Schools. It will occur in conjunction with the Police Department and will be within the schools, not the police precincts. Baseline statistics will be provided for those schools on delinquent issues. Stafford stated the Grant Review Committee made some recommendations to improve the grant that will be stated in the Letter of Notification sent to the Grantee. Cosley noted it will take a while to become operational, and hopefully, the grant will continue after a year.

VII. Update on Equipment for Juvenile Courts – Debrah Stafford

A handout was distributed on software and printer purchases approved at the last meeting. Some residual state and federal formula grant funds were used for the new equipment. Computers will be ordered soon.

TCCY is already working with AOC to devise a new data system. AOC was committed to developing a new data system as the old one could not be revised. The money TCCY awarded the AOC went toward preliminary work in meeting with the courts as well as TCCY discussions with the courts to determine what is needed.

VIII. Other Business

Cosley referenced a letter sent by Lewis pertaining to Multnomah County, Oregon, and alluded to in the media this morning. This was the star county on DMC and considered a national model. The county implemented programs that succeeded in reducing minorities

in detention centers. Over the past several years the gap has grown again. This year black youth were four times more likely to be arrested and were nearly twice as likely to be held when brought into a facility. The gap is now the largest since the department began tracking. The reason is the budget cuts to programs known to be working. Cosley noted this is a warning to TCCY and DMC efforts. She stated programs and money are paramount to success in lowering rates in disproportionality.

Zanira Whitfield, Fay Delk, Richard Kennedy, Pam Brown, Vicki Taylor, Gwen Wright, and Linda O'Neal attended the FrameWorks Institute training in Memphis. The FrameWorks Institute has funding from different sources for research on how people think about issues and the kind of messaging that helps move people on issues. Much research has been done around early childhood education and health care, and some research about government and race.

A handout from the training on Race and Related Issues was distributed. O'Neal noted she brings this to the committee for specific reasons:

- There has been a lot of discussion around these issues;
- There has been some discussion in the past about whether and how TCCY could do more publicity.

Frank Gilliam, a FrameWorks associate and Vice President at UCLA, gave the presentation on race. Some of the strategies for effective communication were shared. The most effective method is to appeal to one's values.

The research says the focus should not necessarily be on racism, the historical legacy or on individuals. The Institute advocates talking about situations, structures, public policy, public supports, partnerships, community involvement, etc. They do not recommend talking about intentionality or bias. It is important to focus on the solutions, not the problems. The focus really has to be on opportunity for all, on shared fate, interdependence and values.

Their message is if you really want to move people, you have to focus on the opportunity issues and what is in all our best interests. O'Neal finalized by saying the methodology guides how we try to interact on some of these issues and influence the people who need to be persuaded on a common goal. It was recommended anyone having the opportunity to attend Frameworks Institute training should do so for improvement in messaging on important issues.

As there was no other business to come before the committee, the meeting adjourned at 2:45 pm.

Minutes submitted by:

Ann Lowe, Administrative Secretary

Minutes approved by:

Beverly Cosley, Chairperson